



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a markup language document and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type in the markup language document, comprising the steps of:

loading the markup language document into a browser capable of visually rendering the markup language document;

automatically identifying any instances of the specified type of data in the markup language document;

visually rendering the loaded markup language document, wherein said step of visually rendering the loaded markup language document comprises the step of:

visually rendering any identified instances of the specified data type in the loaded markup language document such that each one of any identified instances stands out visually in the visually rendered markup language document; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document, wherein said functionality comprises the step of:

in response to only a single action being performed by a user of the browser in relation to any of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document, performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the single action performed by the user of the browser comprises the step of:

selecting at least one of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of selecting comprises the step of:

using a cursor and a selecting means to click the at least one of the identified instances standing out in the visually rendered markup language document.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said selecting means comprises at least one of a computer mouse, a touchpad, a keyboard, a trackball, a voice command device, and a joystick.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired operation comprises at least one of storing any of the identified instances of the specified data type in at least one memory location designated for the specified type of data; transmitting any of the identified instances of the specified data type to a designated piece of hardware or software in order that the designated piece of hardware/software perform a desired action either with or upon any of the identified instances of the specified data type; and providing the user of the browser with a number of options of what action to perform with or upon any of the identified instances of the specified data type.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said steps of loading the markup language document into the browser and automatically identifying any instances of the specified type of data in the markup language document are performed at substantially the same time.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the specified data type comprises at least one of a category of text, a category of picture file, a category of audio file, and an attribute of a picture or audio file.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the category of text is at least one of a telephone number and a mailing address.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of visually rendering any identified instances of the specified data type in the loaded markup language document such that each one of any identified instances stands out visually in the visually rendered markup language document comprises the step of:

highlighting each one of any identified instances in the visually rendered markup language document.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language comprises at least one of HTML and XML.

11. (Previously Amended) A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in an HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) and for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon at least one selected instance of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document, comprising the steps of:

loading the HTML/XML document into a browser of HTML/XML documents (HTML/XML browser);

automatically detecting any instance of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document;

presenting the loaded HTML/XML document in the HTML/XML browser;

highlighting any detected instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document; and

when a user of the HTML/XML browser selects at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document, performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon said at least one selected instance of the specified data type.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of detecting any instance of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document comprises the step of:

parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document comprises the step of:

inserting programming code into the run-time DOM of the HTML/XML document, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM using at least one expression string, wherein said at least one expression string describes the object characteristics of the specified data type.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
receiving feedback from the user concerning an undetected instance of the specified data type; and

using the user feedback in order to detect said undetected instance in the future, by performing at least one step of:

modifying the at least one expression string; and
adding at least one other expression string.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of highlighting any detected instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document comprises the step of:

placing a span tag at any detected instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document, wherein said span tag also makes the detected instance selectable by the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon said at least one selected instance of the specified data type comprises the step of:

extracting said at least one selected instance of the specified data type.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon said at least one selected instance of the specified data type further comprises the step of at least one of:

passing the extracted at least one selected instance of the specified data type to another program;

storing the extracted at least one selected instance of the specified data type; and

transmitting the extracted at least one selected instance of the specified data type to another software or hardware component in a computer system or network, wherein the HTML/XML browser is running on a component of said computer system or network.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein user of the HTML/XML browser selects at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document by performing only a single action.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the user may use one of at least two techniques to select at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type in the displayed HTML/XML document.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein, if a first of the at least two selection techniques is used by the user to select at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type, a menu of selectable options is presented to the user, wherein the selectable options comprise desired operations to perform or initiate with or upon the selected at least one highlighted instance of the specified data type.

22. (Previously Amended) A method for assisting a user in calling or storing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

- automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number in an HTML or XML web page being downloaded to a web browser;

- providing functionality that (i) highlights any detected telephone number in the downloaded web page; and (ii) allows the user to select any highlighted detected telephone number in the downloaded web page;

- if the user selects a highlighted detected telephone number, extracting the selected highlighted telephone number; and

- at least one of:

- passing the extracted telephone number to a telephony program in order that the telephony program initiate a telephone call; and

- storing the extracted telephone number in memory.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of automatically detecting any instance of the specified data type in the downloaded web page comprises the step of:

inserting programming code into the run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the downloaded web page, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM of the downloaded web page.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM using at least one expression string, wherein the at least one expression string describes at least one of North American formatted telephone numbers and international formatted telephone numbers.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

receiving feedback from the user concerning an undetected telephone number on the downloaded web page; and

using the user feedback in order to detect a format of said undetected telephone number in the future, by performing at least one step of:

modifying the at least one expression string; and

adding at least one other expression string.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 22, wherein the step of providing functionality that (i) highlights any detected telephone number in the downloaded web page; and (ii) allows the user to select any highlighted detected telephone number in the downloaded web page comprises the step of:

placing a span tag at a detected instance of telephone number in the downloaded web page, wherein said span tag (i) highlights the detected telephone number in the displayed web page; and (ii) makes the highlighted detected telephone number in the displayed web page selectable by the user.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the steps of automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number and providing functionality that (i) highlights any detected

telephone number in the downloaded web page; and (ii) allows the user to select any highlighted detected telephone number in the downloaded web page are performed by at least one of a proxy server and a client browser.

28. (Previously presented) A method for dialing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting, by a client system, any instance of a telephone number in a web page;

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number such that each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page; and

in response to only a single action being performed by a user on a detected instance of a telephone number on the rendered web page, dialing said telephone number.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of dialing said telephone number comprises the step of:

extracting and passing said telephone number to a telephony program.

30. (Previously presented) A method for assisting a user in performing an operation on a telephone number comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting, by a client system, any instance of a telephone number in a web page;

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number such that each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page; and

in response to a user at least selecting an instance of a telephone number on the rendered web page, performing at least one predefined operation on said telephone number.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the at least one operation comprises the steps of:

extracting and passing said telephone number to a program separate from a web browser in which the web page is rendered.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the program comprises a Browser Helper Object.

33. (Previously presented) A method for assisting a user in performing operations on a telephone number comprising the steps of:

providing functionality by a module on a client system, said module being separate from a web browser on the client system, wherein said functionality comprises:

automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number in a web page being downloaded by the web browser;

rendering, by the web browser, any detected instance of a telephone number such that each identified instance stands out in the rendered web page;

making each identified instance of a telephone number capable of being selected by a user; and

in response to a user at least selecting an instance of a telephone number on the rendered web page, performing at least one predefined operation on said telephone number.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the module comprises a dynamic link library.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the module comprises a Browser Helper Object.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number comprises the steps of:

parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the web page.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the web page comprises the step of:

inserting programming code into the run-time DOM of the web page, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM.

38. (Previously presented) A method for detecting telephone numbers comprising the step of:

automatically detecting any instance of a telephone number in a HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) being downloaded to a browser of HTML/XML documents (HTML/XML browser) by performing the sub-step of:

parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document by inserting programming code into the run-time DOM of the HTML/XML document, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM.

39. (Previously presented) A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a HTML or XML document (HTML/XML document) and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type in the HTML/XML document, comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting any instances of the specified type of data in the HTML/XML document by performing the sub-step of:

parsing a run-time Document Object Model (DOM) of the HTML/XML document by inserting programming code into the run-time DOM of the HTML/XML document, wherein said inserted programming code parses the run-time DOM; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the detected instances, wherein said functionality is neither intrinsic to, nor defined by, the markup language.

40. (Previously presented) A method for automatically detecting a specified type of data in a markup language document and for providing functionality for any detected instances of the specified data type in the markup language document, comprising the steps of:

automatically detecting any instances of the specified type of data in the markup language document, wherein the specified type of data is not identified or otherwise indicated by a markup language tag; and

providing a functionality for performing or initiating a desired operation either with or upon any of the automatically detected instances, wherein said functionality is neither intrinsic to, nor defined by, the markup language.

41. (Previously presented) A method for dialing a telephone number comprising the steps of:

rendering, by the client system, any detected instance of a telephone number on a displayed web page such that each identified instance stands out; and

in response to at least one action performed by a user on a detected instance of a telephone number on the displayed web page, dialing said telephone number.